

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2002 LB 1310

ready, bring you some Pepto-Bismol or whatever it is that settles stomachs when they get upset because I'm going to upset some of you. I'm upset now, but I don't have to raise my voice. I can just tell you. You all are highly intellectual. I don't have to appeal to your ears by raising my voice; I appeal to your mind by trying to find those words that will insinuate themselves into your consciousness and bring about persuasion that I am right. Then you'll take the next step to conviction that you ought to act, then we will begin to make progress. But then and only then will there be progress, Senator Vrtiska. Unless you do what I suggest, exactly as I suggest it, civilization in Nebraska as you know it will sink into the ocean or the Missouri River or something. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw this pending amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We're now debating advancement of the bill. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Ouch. I didn't know an old man could be shocking, Mr. Speaker. Senator Baker and I have an amendment to file to the bill so I'm going to talk about that just a little bit. What we're going to propose to you is an amendment that would reinstate language capping this fund. We have not got an agreement with anyone, I guess, as a matter of fact, but I think it is unconscionable that in 1998, and I don't know how it happened, we will in fact be told, I suspect how it happened, whether it happened in an agency correction bill which sometimes happened, or how it is that we repealed the limits on the Petroleum Remedial Action Release Fund (sic--Petroleum Release Remedial Action Collection Fund), but what we're proposing to do is not change the reduction of the fund. The \$6 million will stay in place. The fee, which is nine-tenths of a cent a gallon, will stay in place, nine-tenths of a cent on gasoline, three-tenths of a cent on diesel fuel and \$90 per tank registration fee, on an annual basis. But what it will do is cap that fee, the fund, at \$20 million on the upside of unobligated funds. When the fund gets to that amount, then the